

Appl. No. 09/833,941
Amdt. Dated December 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 25, 2006

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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office action of September 25, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 10 and 12-27 are pending in this application, with Claims 10 and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended herein, and Claim 11 has been canceled herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 18-27 are allowed, and that dependent Claims 11 and 12 recite allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,741 (Davies) and European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 927 941 A2 (Almeida). This rejection is respectfully traversed, at least in light of the above amendments. In particular, Claim 10 has been amended herein to recite the features of dependent Claim 11. As noted above, this claims was indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 10 and 18 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also believed to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

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Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: December 19, 2006

By: 

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